July/August 1984

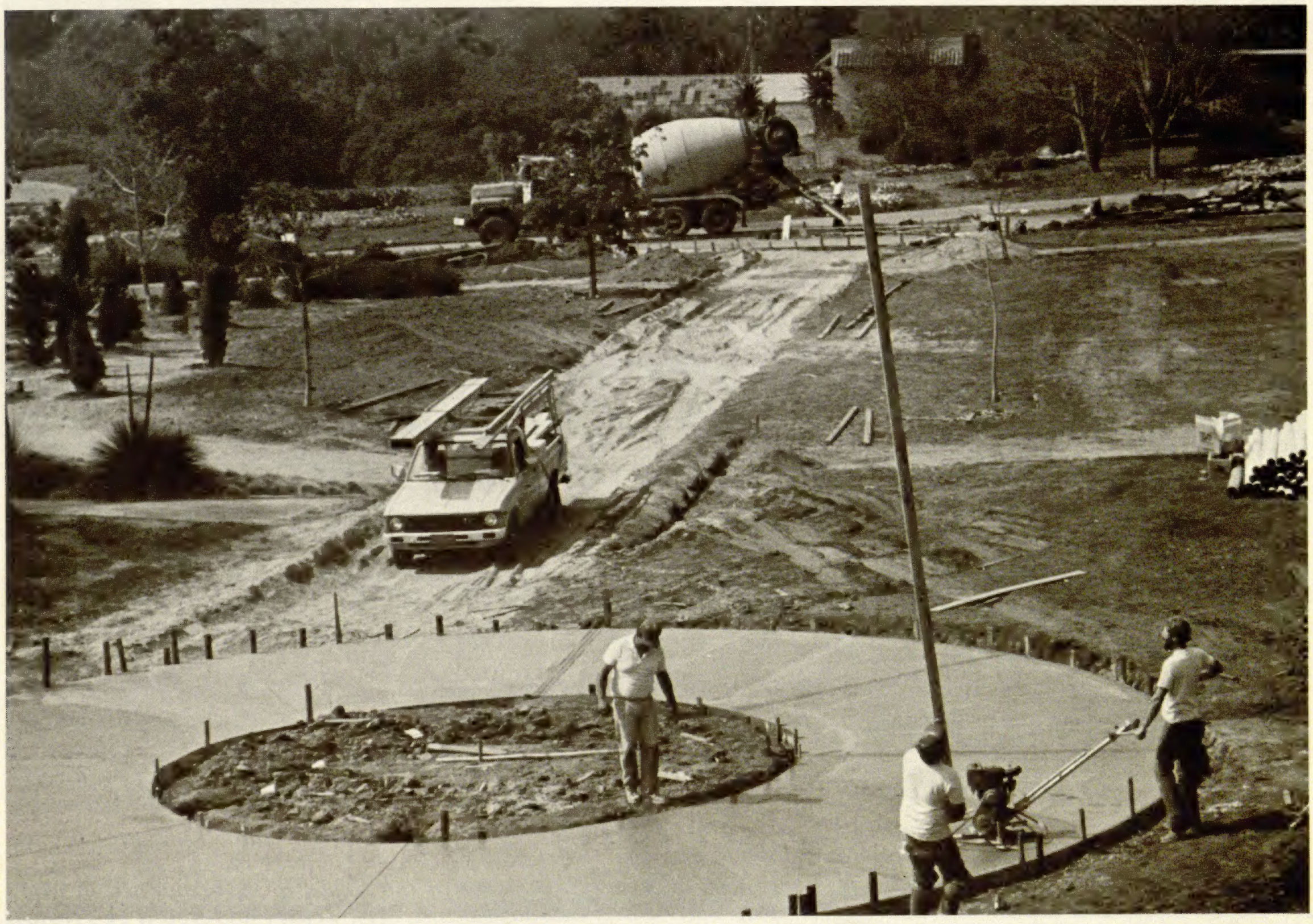
Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

NEW WALKS, RINGS ENHANCE GARDEN SHOW EXHIBIT AREA

THANKS TO the steering committee of the annual Garden Show, three new walkways have been built west of Ayres Hall of Environmental Education at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, ensuring more convenient access for future shows. The improvements were made possible by the great success of Garden Show 1983 which drew over 30,000 visitors. The committee donated approximately $15,000 and plans were drafted in conjunction with the Arboretum and landscape designer Chris Rosmini.

Three walkways about 350 feet long were poured. One walk was dug up and replaced with thicker



LuAnn B. Munns

Workers begin laying out the new access roads and pouring cement. The project was completed in time for the Baldwin Bonanza as well as Garden Show 1984.

concrete to accommodate cars and trucks bringing exhibits into Ayres Hall.

Even the old concrete was put to good use. It was broken up and turned into a decorative two-foot retaining wall leading toward the Begonia Greenhouse. The wall benefits the area by improving drainage and supporting the enclosed dirt areas.

Cement was also poured in two circular patterns across from Ayres Hall and opposite the African section. A *Chorisia speciosa* planted inside the circle on the African side will be a permanent fixture, but displays in the eastern ring will change with the seasons. Colorful annuals will be planted and there are also plans for a portable fountain to grace the area at times.

Work on the project began in early March, and most of it was completed in early May after logistical problems were conquered. Perhaps the biggest obstacle was the sprinkler system. The system in the area had to be shut off and a portion of it moved north of the new wall.

Among the trees that will line the new walkways are bombax, tabebuia and chorisia. A garden featuring drought-tolerant plants is also forecast for the future across from the African section, replacing the grass plots north of the circular planter housing the chorisia. The Arboretum, the California Arboretum Foundation and Garden Show committee expect the improvements to make future Garden Shows more convenient and successful.

LuAnn B. Munns

A gathering of international dignitaries walk through the Australian Section April 10 on the way to the dedication of the new Australian Interpretive Center. Six panels in the center depict and explain the native Australian wildlife and vegetation. Among those attending were, from left: Mayor of Temple City Kenneth Gillanders, Arcadia Mayor Dennis Lojeski, Arboretum Director Francis Ching, Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles B. J. Teasey, President of the Board of Governors Ruth Mary (Mrs. Leland) Larson, Mrs. Teasey and Board of Trustees member Eugene Schrider.

KNOWLEDGE, COMPUTERS REWARD STUDENTS AT ECOLOGICAL FAIR

EXOTIC CREATURES and displays stressing resource protection filled Ayres Hall of Environmental Education and spread out onto the surrounding lawns during the Environmental Education Fair at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Many of the 3,000 visitors to the Fair on March 24 were students from Southern California schools. About 250 junior and senior high school students attended as part of an ecological treasure hunt that sent them searching for clues as far north as the Australian section and kept them traveling until they found the last "EEF Stop" on Tallac Knoll. Winning teams took computers worth several thousand dollars back to their classrooms.

The Fair gave about 50 exhibitors a showcase for demonstrating their programs and projects relating to the natural sciences.

Everyone, it seemed, stopped to use their eyes and occasionally their hands at exhibits featuring live creatures including boa constrictors, an opposum, ferrets, owls, hawks and tarantulas. Most of the live animals were displayed by groups such as the Wildlife Way Station and the San Gabriel Humane Society which specialize in rehabilitating sick or injured wild animals.

At other exhibits, students could make a sand painting, pick up a free pine seedling from the Tree-People or be strapped into a litter by the mountain rescue unit from the Altadena Sheriffs Station. A number of municipal agencies were also at the Fair distributing ideas for wise use of water, natural gas and electricity. At the Southern California Edison mobile unit, people could see the sun produce kinetic energy with solar cells that powered toy trains, fans and other models.

Adults and teachers in the crowd took advantage of an idea exchange booth where they swapped classroom-proven environmental education lesson plans and descriptions of natural science projects. At a morning workshop, Emanuel Rosales from the Cabrillo Beach Marine Museum outlined a field trip and marine science course. Deborah Shenfil from the William O. Douglas Outdoor School used her afternoon workshop slot to lead games, teaching students basic environmental concepts in entertaining ways.

After three years, the Fair has evolved into such a successful program that the main changes in the future will probably be an expansion in the range of exhibits and inclusion of elementary grade schools in the ecological treasure hunt.

The Fair, financed primarily with funds from the state environmental license plate program, is sponsored by a cross-section of governmental and educational organizations in Southern California. Sponsors for the Environmental Education Fair in 1984 included Southern California Edison Co., Office of the L.A. Superintendent of Schools, City of Buenaventura, Department of Water Resources, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, L.A. County Fire Department, National Park Service, L.A. Department of Water and Power, L.A. Unified School District, California Department of Education, Metropolitan Water District, Orange County Department of Education, Southern California Gas Co., California Department of Water Resources.

LuAnn B. Munns

The Environmental Education Fair proved to be a little too close to nature for at least one person.

FIRST "DISCOVERY" TOUR GROUP HEARS DR. ENARI'S SPICY TALES

THE FIRST of seven walking tours and horticultural lectures at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum attracted 40 visitors on April 29. "The Arboretum Discovery Program" series is sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation in cooperation with the Arboretum under the supervision of education specialist, Wendy Sekovich.

Dr. Leonid Enari, retired senior biologist at the Arboretum, led the walking tour, "Herb Garden and Historical Plant Exploration." At 10 a.m. the group—mostly Foundation members and Dr. Enari's ex-students — boarded a tram bound for the Herb Garden. Once there, Dr. Enari enthralled his audience with spicy historical stories and amusing anecdotes related to the culinary and medicinal uses of herbs. Their use as fragrances through the ages was also discussed in Dr. Enari's familiar style. "One of the reasons for Dr. Enari's popularity is his ability to state even the most complex definitions and ideas in understandable, layman's terms," said Mrs. Sekovich.

The group proceeded to the Coach Barn and Queen Anne Cottage areas where trees as diverse as redwoods and eucalyptus were examined. The morning ended with a look at the landscape and plantlife around the Hugo Reid Adobe, with the prickly pears given special attention.

Mrs. Sekovich, who joined the staff in January after a year at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, says the group thoroughly enjoyed the morning's walk and many asked when Dr. Enari, who is still on the staff of PCC and UCLA, would be giving his next Sunday morning walking lecture at the Arboretum.

Although Dr. Enari will not return during the current series, several other specialists will explore different facets of the Arboretum during the remaining classes and tours this summer.

Wendy Sekovich

Dr. Leonid Enari leads the first class in the "Arboretum Discovery Program" through the Herb Garden.

(LASCA continues after page 32)

Baldwin Bonanza

"THIS YEAR'S Baldwin Bonanza was one of the most successful ever," according to Francis Ching, director. Indeed, approximately 9,500 gardeners and plant buffs attended the 14th annual sale of rare and hard-to-find plants and the Saturday evening preview party.

Bonanza chairman Virginia (Mrs. C. A.) Stein was jubilant about the attendance. "It's wonderful that we had this marvelous weather because it means so much to a sale like this."

Late-arriving orchid lovers found themselves somewhat disappointed

The Baldwin Bonanza preview party on May 5 drew 1,500 relaxed and refreshed friends of the Foundation. Photos by William Aplin.

since these popular plants were sold out by mid-afternoon. Other best-sellers were palms, staghorn ferns, colorful bromeliads and tillandsias. As usual, rare specimens were among the first to go.

Mr. Ching praised the efforts of Arboretum superintendent John Provine and his staff. The crews completed construction work around Ayres Hall of Environmental Education before the Bonanza opened, even though they had to take time out to repair shade cloth supports and rehang the covering that winds damaged earlier in the week.

Congratulations are to be extended to Bonanza chairman Mrs. Stein and her husband for their long hours and tireless effort as well as to assistant chairman Sue (Mrs. Nicholas) Ruddick. Mr. Ching also felt that "the success of the Baldwin Bonanza can be attributed to Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes as well as friends and relatives who also attended."

Mr. Provine was glad that the walkways, paid for by the Garden Show steering committee, were completed. "It was very convenient, much better than walking on dirt and grass," he said.

Among the thousands who attended the day-long Baldwin Bonanza were **left** *co-chairmen Susan (Mrs. Nicholas) Ruddick and Virginia (Mrs. C. A.) Stein and* **right** *Mr. and Mrs. John S. Shepherd, president of the California Arboretum Foundation.*

Some of the best plant buys in Southern California were available at the Bonanza, and almost 10,000 shoppers took advantage of the opportunity..

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 1984

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

JUNE 1, 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fuchsia Show
National Fuchsia Society

JUNE 9 — Noon to 4:30 p.m.
Hemerocallis Show
Amaryllis & Hemerocallis Society

JUNE 16, 17 — Saturday 1-4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Gladiolus Show
Southern California Gladiolus Society

JUNE 29, 30, JULY 1 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
Cactus and Succulent Society

JULY 7, 8 — Saturday 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Miniature Rose Show
San Gabriel Valley Rose and Horticultural Society

JULY 21, 22 — Saturday 12-4:30 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Begonia Show
American Begonia Society, SGV Branch

JULY 28 through AUGUST 19 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily
Art Show
Women Artists of the American West

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3—9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Fern and Exotic Plant Show
Los Angeles International Fern Society

SEPTEMBER 29, 30 — 9 am.-4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society
All events sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

JUNE 1 through JUNE 28 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Artist of the Month—Paul Youngman
Art Gallery

JUNE 3 — 2:30 p.m.
Madrigal Singers
La Canada High School

JUNE 3 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Arts and Crafts Fair

JUNE 9 through JUNE 17 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Descanso Bonsai Society

JUNE 24 — 2:30 p.m.
Sweet Adeline Singers
Verdugo Chapter

JULY 22 — 2:30 p.m.
Band Concert
Pasadena City College Swing band

JULY 29 — 2:30 p.m.
Ballet Under the Oaks
California Repertory Ballet

AUGUST 5 — 2:30 p.m.
Scottish Dancing
The Waverly Dancers

AUGUST 12 — 2:30 p.m.
Theatrical Presentation
La Canada Players

AUGUST 19 — 2:30 p.m.
Ballet Under the Oaks
California Repertory Ballet

AUGUST 26 — 2:30 p.m.
Twain-times Theater
La Canada Players
All events sponsored by the Descanso Gardens Guild

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

JUNE 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fuchsia Show
South Coast Fuchsia Society

JUNE 16, 17 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
Cactus and Succulent Society

JULY 1 — 2 p.m.
Geranium exhibit
Susan Tufenkian

JULY 8 — 2 p.m.
Floral arranging, a demonstration
Long Beach Garden Club

JULY 15 — 2 p.m.
Cactus Garden Tour
Stan Oleson

JULY 22 — 2 p.m.
Plants of Peru and Bolivia, a slide show
Bill Baker

JULY 29 — 2 p.m.
Groundcovers, a lecture
Eleanor Baker

AUGUST 4, 5 — Sat. noon to 4:30 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.14:30 p.m.
Bromeliad Show
South Coast Bromeliad Society

AUGUST 12 — 2 p.m.
Flowers and Vegetables For Your Garden, a walking tour
Jean Jacyna

AUGUST 18, 19 — Saturday 1-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dahlia Show
South Coast Dahlia Society

AUGUST 26 — 2 p.m.
Local Butterflies, a slide show
Jess Morton

All events sponsored by the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation